

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 05085 301116 Z

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ACTION EA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1944

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 5085

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TH

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR UNGER TO WILLIAM GRAVES,
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

REF: A. BANGKOK 4116 B. BANGKOK 4215

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR UNGER TO WILLIAM
GRAVES, SENIOR EDITORIAL STAFF, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY:

BEGIN TEXT:

1. I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE RECEIVED THE MARCH 23, 1973 " FIRST PROOF"
OF THE BANGKOK ARTICLE, AND AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO REPORT
THAT IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE AMENDMENTS SHOULD GO FAR, IF NOT ALL
THE WAY TOWARDS SATISFYING YOUR SEVEREST CRITIC, M. L. THAWISAN.
2. I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO REITERATE MY ADVICE THAT THE PICTURE
OF THE BUDDHA IMAGE TRUSSED UP ON A TRUCK BE REMOVED FROM THE
SPREAD ENTIRELY. I REALIZE THE PROOF WAS LAID OUT BEFORE RECEIPT
OF MY LETTER OF MARCH 24, AND PERHAPS YOU HAVE ALREADY REMOVED THE
PICTURE, BUT FOR GOOD MEASURE I WILL EMPHASIZE AGAIN THAT THIS
PICTURE ALONE COULD SPOIL THE THAI REACTION TO THE ENTIRE ARTICLE.
IF YOU RUN IT AS THE LEAD PICTURE, AS IT IS NOW SET UP, FEW THAIS
WILL GET BEYOND IT AND THOSE THAT DO-- INCLUDING THOSE IN THE
PALACE-- WILL BE OFFENDED AND MAY JUDGE THE WHOLE PIECE UNFAIRLY
AS A RESULT.
3. REGARDING THE PARAGRAPH ABOUT THE AIRBASES ON PATE 98-1, THE
THAI NATION HAS NOT (RPT NOT) " GRANTED THE UNITED STATES ADVANCED
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AIR BASES WITHIN ITS BORDERS." FOR ACCURACY AND IMPORTANT DIPLO-
MATIC/ POLITICAL REASONS, THIS PASSAGE SHOULD BE AMENDED TO READ :
" AT CONSIDERABLE RISK TO ITSELF, THOUGH RECOGNIZING ITS OWN STAKE
IN ASIAN SECURITY, THAILAND HAS ALLOWED THE UNITED STATES TO USE
THAI AIR BASES." THIS POINT, THAT THE BASES ARE AND REMAIN UNDER
THAI CONTROL, IS A LINCHPIN OF OUR OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS HERE.

4. ON PAGE 103-1, THE CAPTION SHOULD READ SUKHUMVIT ROAD,
SINGULAR.

5. ON PAGE 104-1, LINE TEN, IT IS NOT QUITE CORRECT TO SAY THAT
THE U. S. HAS BEEN " SPENDING" SOME \$80,000,000 A YEAR IN AID HERE.
IN THIS CONTEXT, THE WORD " SPENDING" GIVES THE IMPRESSION THAT U. S.
AID BENEFITS THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PICTURE BY THAT AMOUNT, WHICH
IS NOT ENTIRELY CORRECT AS SOME OF THIS IS NOT A DIRECT FOREIGN
EXCHANGE OFFSET. RECOMMEND SAYING INSTEAD " ALSO, THE UNITED STATES
HAS BEEN PROVIDING SOME \$80,000,000 A YEAR, ETC."

5. REGARDING HIS MAJESTY, LET ME SUGGEST A SUBSTITUTE TEXT FOR
THE PASSAGES IN COLUMN ONE, ON PAGE 129-1. " ANOTHER GOOD FRIEND IS
THAILAND' S KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ, RAMA IX. THE 46- YEAR- OLD
SOVEREIGN IS A KEEN STUDENT OF U. S. AND WORLD AFFAIRS AND IS ALSO
ONE OF THE MOST BELOVED MONARCHS IN THE HISTORY OF THE THAI PEOPLE.
HE IS THE SYMBOL OF THE NATION TO ALL THAIS, INCLUDING STUDENTS AND
YOUNG PEOPLE. HE AT TIMES JOINS GROUPS OF THE LATTER TO ENJOY
MUSIC- MAKING, FOR WHICH HE HAS GREAT TALENT BOTH AS COMPOSER AND
PERFORMER." YOUR TEXT IS CERTAINLY AN IMPROVEMENT OVER THE PRE-
VIOUS DRAFT, BUT THE MODIFICATION SUGGESTED ABOVE WOULD BE SURE
TO SATISFY THE PALACE AND YOUR THAI READERS A GREAT DEAL BETTER,
AND DOES REVEAL AN INTERESTING FACET OF HIS MAJESTY' S ROLE.

6. IN CLOSING I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF MARCH
22, A COPY OF WHICH I AM SENDING TO M. L. THAWISAN. LET ME TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO THANK YOU AND THE EDITORS MOST SINCERELY
FOR TAKING SUCH TROUBLE AT THIS POINT IN PRODUCTION TO MAKE THE
EXTENSIVE CHANGES WE AND THE PALACE SUGGESTED. I AM CONFIDENT THAT
THE MAGNITUDE OF YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD WILL NOT BE LOST ON
THE PALACE. SINCERELY, LEONARD UNGER. END TEXT.
DECONTROL UPON RECEIPT.
UNGER

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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